



THE

# RecyCool PLANET

The Official RecyCool Club Publication

Summer Edition

## Congratulations Recycling Challenge Winners!



I am pleased to announce the winners for my 2004 Statewide Recycling Challenge! Collectively, the participants recycled over 1,000 pounds of aluminum and plastic California Redemption Value beverage containers!

The winners won such prizes as... backpacks, binders, t-shirts and lunch bags all made from recycled soda and water bottles!

A BIG pat on the back for everyone that participated! You all are winners in my book! I hope you had fun as well, recycling all those bottles and cans!



Ms. Davies' 4th grade class at Cesar Chavez Elementary School recycled the most pounds of California Redemption Value Plastic!

**Winner for all 3 categories** (most aluminum recycled, most plastic recycled and most combined total recycled) for **"Group Entry":**

**Oakdale Boy Scouts!**

Congratulations for recycling nearly 500 pounds of beverage containers—way to go!

**Winners for classroom categories:**

**Most pounds of plastic:**

Ms. Davies' 4th grade class at **Cesar Chavez Elementary School** in Davis.

**Most pounds of aluminum and most pounds combined:** Ms. Cornelson's Class at **Westfield Elementary School**, in West Sacramento.

## "My Secret Code Game"

A very cool RecyCooler, Jonna of Sacramento, sent in this game. She called it "My Secret Code Game!" Thank you for allowing me to share this in my newsletter Jonna! Match the symbols to the letters and write the letters on the blue line to find out what the message says! **Answer on page 4**



C



E



I



L



O



R



U



V



X



Y



Congratulations to all of you... for a job well done!

!

# Greetings!

Greetings RecyCoolers...I'm so excited that spring is here! We sure have had a lot of rain in California this past winter. All of that extra moisture has helped the flowers and trees to bloom. There are so many different colors of pretty flowers, and they all smell so good. The extra long days and the warmer weather make me want to get my baseball glove out and play catch!

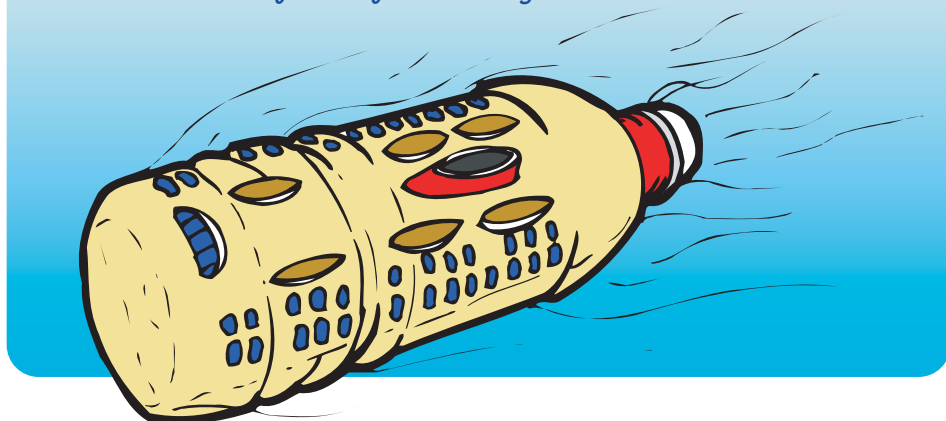
When I'm outside playing, I find myself drinking lots of extra water, juice and soda... and I bet you do too! Did you know that you could make a little extra spending money by recycling your empty drink containers? Just look on the drink container label for, "California Cash Refund" or "California Redemption Value" (CRV). If you see those words on the label; you can get almost a nickel for every small container and almost a dime for every big one! Just take your empty CRV beverage containers to your nearest recycling center and they'll give you money! You can call my friends at 1-800-RECYCLE to find out where your nearest recycling center is... all you have to know is your zip code (and get your parents permission to use the phone!)

For months now, I have been saving all of my recycling money, and I have saved a lot! If I had not recycled all of my empty drink containers, they would have gone to the dump and the planet would not be as healthy. The soil and the water and the air would have been dirtier because I was not recycling. So, recycling is the right thing to do to help keep the planet healthy... and recycling your empty drink containers can put some money back into your pocket!

Spring is my favorite time of year because of Earth Day (April 22). I made new friends at the Sacramento Zoo, California State University San Bernardino, the Star ECO-Station in Culver City, an Earth Day Celebration in Thousand Oaks, and at the

# Soda Bottle Boat

You can make your very own moving boat out of a soda bottle



## Materials:

- Plastic soda bottle (2 liter) with cap (rinsed, dried and label removed)
- Permanent pens (optional)
- Toilet paper
- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Marbles or small rocks

This project works best when you do this with adult supervision! Here's what to do:

1. If you'd like to decorate your boat, you can draw on it with permanent markers.
2. Put some baking soda (one table spoon) on three or four sheets of toilet paper. Spread the baking soda out evenly.

3. Roll up the toilet paper and put it in the soda bottle.
4. To add some weight to your boat, put a few marbles (or small rocks) into the soda bottle. But make sure it still floats!
5. Fill the bottle about a quarter of the way with vinegar and quickly put the cap on the bottle (twist it only once or twice... it shouldn't fit tight).
6. Immediately place your boat in a tub or pool of water and watch it go!

Experiment with different amounts of vinegar and baking soda to see how fast you can make your soda bottle boat go!

California Environmental Protection Agency Earth Day Celebration in Sacramento! I'm a little tired from all of that traveling, but it was sure worth it to make so many new friends and talk about the importance of recycling their empty drink containers. Everybody was so nice, and really interested in learning more about recycling. I showed them how they can turn an old soda bottle into a new shirt, and they were really surprised!

Just remember, each and every one of you CAN make a difference in saving our beautiful planet by recycling. Take care and recycle where you live, learn and play!

**Congratulations!**  
to all the  
**RecyCool Club Graduates!**

If this is the fourth newsletter you've received from me, you've officially graduated from my RecyCool Club! You can continue to learn about recycling, reducing, reusing and closing the loop on my website: [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov) look for the "Kids Only" section. Please remember to recycle where you live, learn and play!



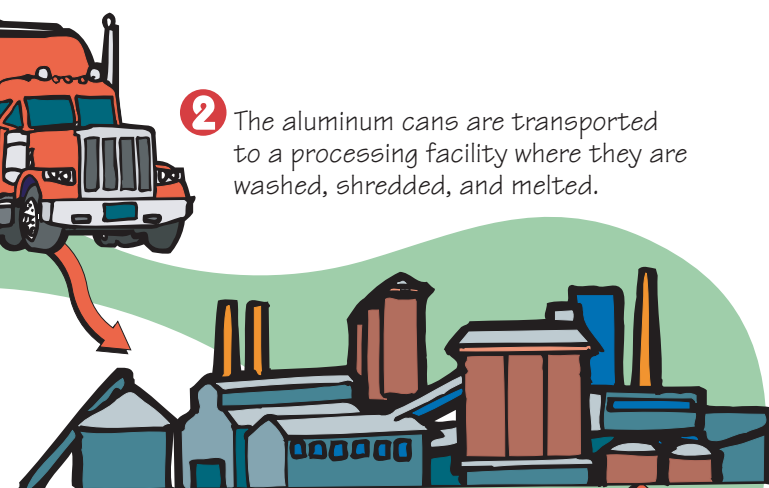
# How Aluminum is Recycled



- 1** You can take your aluminum soda cans to a recycling center or leave them in recycling bins at your curb (if you have curbside service).

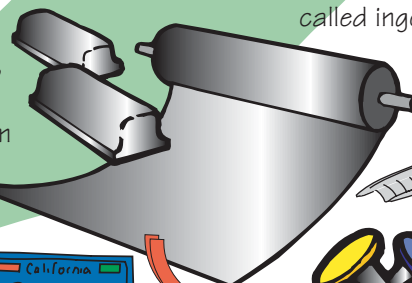
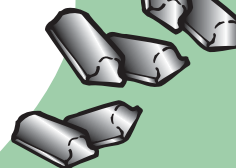


- 2** The aluminum cans are transported to a processing facility where they are washed, shredded, and melted.



**3**

The liquid aluminum is poured into molds that make them into blocks, called ingots.



- 4** The ingots are taken to a can-making factory and melted into rolls of flat sheets of aluminum (similar to thick foil). Ingots are also sold to manufacturers of aluminum products who melt them down for molding into new products.



- 5** The sheets of aluminum are cut and shaped into aluminum cans, inspected and shipped to companies to make drink containers.



An aluminum beverage can returns to the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 90 days after it is recycled.





State of California  
THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
Department of Conservation  
Division of Recycling  
801 K Street, MS 17-01  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### How long does it take our trash to decompose or breakdown?

Aluminum cans = 80-100 years

Glass bottles and jars = 1,000,000 years

Plastic bottles and jugs = 700 years

Plastic bags and disposable diapers = 10-20 years

Orange and banana peels = 2-5 weeks

School papers and newspaper = 2-4 weeks

Plastic toy = 450-1,000 years

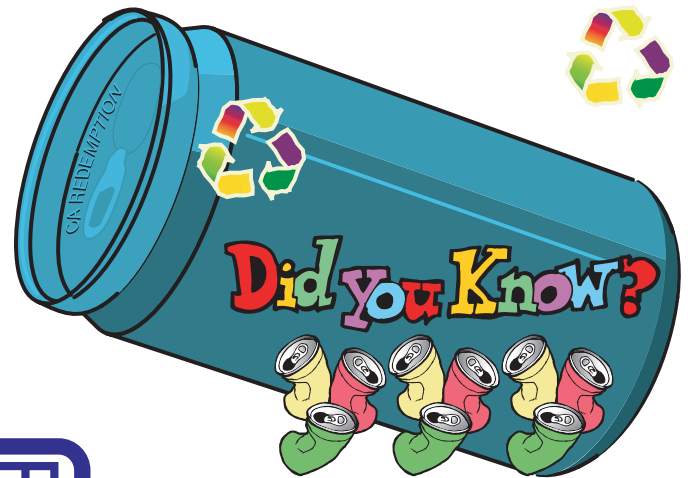
Cotton shirt = 1-5 months



### A-mazing recycling puzzle



Courtesy of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality



An aluminum beverage can returns to the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 90 days after it is recycled. That means you could buy the same recycled aluminum can from a grocer's shelf every 13 weeks, or 4 times a year!



A paper grocery sack holds about 1.5 pounds of empty aluminum cans. When you have a couple of full grocery sacks, you can take them to a recycling center to get money or put them in your curbside-recycling bin!



When an aluminum can is recycled, it conserves 95% of the energy needed to make a brand new aluminum can from bauxite ore (The mineral used to make aluminum)!



Answer to "My secret Code Game"

I love you Recycle Rex!